

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release June 20, 1974

McGarvey 202/343-5634

## MASSIVE ALLIGATOR TRANSPLANT PROPOSED

An application to capture 500 American alligators in Louisiana and transplant 300 of them to Arkansas and the other 200 to Mississippi has been submitted by the National Audubon Society, Lynn A. Greenwalt, Director of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

The public is invited to comment on the proposal.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 requires a permit for the transporting of any endangered species across State lines.

The proposal has the support of fish and game authorities in all three States. The alligators will be collected at night in boats by hand and pole snares from two State refuge areas in Iberia and Cameron Parishes of Louisiana. Their snouts will be banded and they will be tagged, marked, and placed in moist burlap sacks for transporting. Fish and game authorities in the receiving States will handle the distribution of the alligators to areas where the species is to be reestablished.

The National Audubon Society is proposing to carry out this transplant between July 1 and August 15. A notice of the permit application has been published in the Federal Register.

Documents and other information submitted with this application are available for public inspection during normal business hours at Suite 600, 1612 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. Interested persons may comment on the application by writing to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240. All comments received through June 30 will be considered.

Notice of issuance or denial of the permit application will be published in the Federal Register.